

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present Application in view of the Amendment filed on March 20, 2006, and the present Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment that corrects sections of the prior Amendment found to be non-compliant with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.121. This Response re-labels or otherwise reinstates claims 8 and 13. In view of this correction, the new claims 50-64 added in the prior Amendment filed March 20, 2006, and the claims withdrawn in response to the last Restriction Requirement, claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 13 and 49-64 are pending in the present Application.

I. CLAIMS 8 AND 13

In the prior Amendment, the Applicants designated claims 8 and 13 as “Withdrawn,” and now has changed identifies those claims to “Previously presented” since they were both previously amended in the Amendment filed September 9, 2006. The Applicants note that the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 8 and 13 on the grounds that should one of these claims be allowed, the other would be rejected for statutory double patenting. As stated in the prior Amendment, the Applicants do not agree with the Examiner’s assessment of the subject matter of these two claims since claim 8 recites variations of the “first engaging surface” while claim 13 recites variations of the “mating surface.” These two surfaces are defined in the specification as different surfaces of the fastener.

II. DRAWINGS

The Examiner has noted that the drawing “Replacement Sheet 7/9” should have been labeled as page 9/9. Accordingly, the Applicants are resubmitting this Replacement Sheet having the correct page number of “9/9” with the present Response.

III. CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 13 and 49-64 are in condition for allowance, and request a Notice of Allowability for the pending claims. Moreover, the Applicants further assert that independent claim 1 is a generic independent claim, and thus respectfully request that the Examiner remove the species-based restrictions to those embodiments in the present Application covered by independent claim 1. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney of Record if such would expedite the prosecution of the present Application. The Applicants note that the present Response to Notice of Non-Compliance is being filed within one month of the mailing date of the Notice of Non-Compliance dated June 6, 2006. Although no fees are believed due with the present Response, if it is determined that fees are due, please charge Deposit Account No. 13-0480, referencing the Attorney Docket Number specified herein.

Respectfully submitted,

/Brian C. McCormack/

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